



## 2-353rd Infantry Battalion “VANGUARDS” Commander



LTC Michael P. Stephens Jr. was commissioned as a 2nd Lt. of Infantry in May 1995 as a Distinguished Military Graduate of Iowa State University in Ames IA. After attending the Infantry Officers Basic Course at Fort Benning, Ga, he was assigned to Fort Lewis, Washington from 1996 to 1999. While assigned there he served as an Infantry Rifle Platoon Leader, Support Platoon Leader and Battalion S4 in the 1st Bn, 5th Infantry Regiment. Following attendance at the Armor Officers Advance Course at Fort Knox, Ky, and the Combined Arms Services Staff School at Fort Leavenworth, Ks, he was assigned to 1st Bn 6th Infantry Regiment in Baumholder, Germany from 1999 to 2002. There he served as the Assistant Battalion S3, Battalion Maintenance Officer and commanded Bravo Company, 1st Bn 6th Infantry Regiment. In 2002 he assumed command of his second company, Headquarters and

Headquarters Company, 1st BN, 35th AR, where he deployed with them in 2003 to Baghdad, Iraq in support of OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM. In 2003 LTC Stephens arrived at Ft. Benning, Ga, and served as the Battalion S-3 for 3rd BN, 11th IN (OCS) and 2nd BN, 11th IN (BOLC II). In 2005 he was assigned to the Battle Command Training Program in Fort Leavenworth, Ks. There he served as an OPFOR Commander and Maneuver O/T in Operations Group Charlie. In 2009, following attendance at the Command and General Staff College, (ILE), LTC Stephens arrived at Ft. Riley Ks. and served as the Battalion S-3 for 1st BN, 28th IN deploying them to Balad, Iraq in support of OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM. Upon his return from Iraq, in 2010 he assumed the duties as the Brigade Executive Officer for 2nd Brigade, 1st ID in Ft. Riley, Ks, where he deployed with the brigade to Baghdad, Iraq in support of OPERATION NEW DAWN. In 2012 LTC Stephens arrived at Ft. Leavenworth, Ks, to serve as the Chief, Systems Branch, TRADOC Capability Manager Mission Command.

Lieutenant Colonel Stephens awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal w/OLC, Meritorious Service Medal w/4OLC, Army Commendation Medal w/2OLC, Air Force Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal w/OLC, Meritorious Unit Citation w/OLC, Army Superior Unit Award, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal w/2BS, Southwest Asia Service Medal, Iraqi Campaign Medal w/BS, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War On Terrorism Service Medal, Combat Infantryman's Badge, Expert Infantryman's Badge, Airborne Badge and Ranger Tab.